
COURTS COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Courts Committee will search for strategies and procedures that will enable the courts to function more effectively and at reasonable cost to the taxpayer while upholding due process and the rule of law.

Date: April 20, 2023

Time: 8:15 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Becky Brandt, Judge Buytendorp, Trish Chandler, Kalene Engel, Carin Hyter, Lacey Bartsch, Michael Kuehn, Renee Rumpca, Katie Schild, Ashley Hall, Karin Sonneman, Kelly Wooden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from March 16, 2023, were approved.

AGENDA UPDATES

- I. **Treatment Court Update – by Carin Hyter:** 17 current participants, 2 recent pleas taken for treatment court, and next graduation tentatively June 1. Last month the group participated in feed my children. Their community event for April will be a lake cleanup. 1 current participant and 1 graduate have been speaking at Cotter and next week will be at a college drug prevention event. Currently, the team is working on updates to the handbook and policy. National Treatment Court Month is in May. Gracie (intern) finishes up next week. THANK YOU GRACIE!!!
- II. **Veteran’s Court Update – by Ashley Hall:** 18 participants, 3 graduate Friday from Winona County, attending Rise 23 conference in June.
- III. **WRAP+ Update – by Kalene Engel:** 53 participants for the quarter: 11 successful completions, 4 unsuccessful, 38 carryover – highest number of successful completions – a significant number of people found housing which is a big deal! Working collaboratively with probation to best serve co-participants. Seeking a grant

extension. Upcoming staffing changes: Rebecca's last day = April 28 → will likely need to revisit the policy as Rebecca's moving on will require some restructuring of the program. Trish notes that the numbers have picked up as she is getting daily applications with many referrals from out in the community. Katie shared that she and Trish have given presentations on the program to local facilities and WSU social work students.

- IV. **Emergency Filings Update – by Becky Brandt:** process is to contact the case processing team instead of going through court administration team – trainings on this will be held on April 24 and April 26 → information was sent out by Angie Hutchins.
- V. **Courtroom Technology Update – by Becky Brandt:** all courtrooms updated with new technology – Becky is getting power strips on counsel tables so no one needs to go under the table to plug their devices in, as well as privacy screens for the computer monitors – if anyone needs training on using the system contact Becky.
- VI. **MNPATs & Criminal History Update – by Trish Chandler:** Is going to use old MNPATs – inquired as to how the group would feel if she no longer did MNPATs on misdemeanor thefts/trespasses → both Karin & Mike were ok with this. It was agreed that Trish will discontinue MNPATs for misdemeanor thefts and trespass and see how this goes.
- VII. **PD Appointments made on Record & Client Contact Info – by Michael Kuehn:** Identified four situations where they may not be getting client contact information:
(1) Detainer: PD is to review the detainer and if information is missing contact court administration; (2) Application: PD is to wait until the next day to review the application as it can take court admin until the end of the day to scan the application

and until the next day for the document to be accepted; (3) Contact Info taken on the Record: PD is to wait until after the court session and email court administration; and (4) No Application & Info Obtained on the Record: PD is to wait until after the court session and email court administration.

NEXT MEETING: May 18, 2023, at 8:15 a.m.